

# 2018 RISSA RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Deadline: 4:00 PM on March 9, 2018**

Please provide the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA) *Rising Star* Scholarship Committee with nomination(s) from your high school. A high school is entitled to submit one application for each 500 students enrolled with a minimum of one and a maximum of two applications accepted. Please nominate students who you believe demonstrate the effort, determination and resilience to have met the graduation requirements despite challenges and obstacles to overcome. The application/nomination process includes three documents which need to be submitted to RISSA by 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 9, 2018. Completed applications may only be submitted by e-mail (electronic signatures required) to [tdipaolarissa@gmail.com](mailto:tdipaolarissa@gmail.com) or by regular mail to RISSA at the address below. Regular mail submissions must be date stamped in the RISSA office **by 4:00 PM on March 9, 2018**. Postmarks are not acceptable as evidence of timely submission.

Required Application/Nomination Submission:

1. Cover sheet completed with required information and required signatures
2. Statement of overcoming obstacles to meet high school graduation requirements (2 page limit)
3. Copy of Transcript for reference of meeting graduation requirements
4. Applications will not be submitted to judges unless packets include items 1-3 above. All additional materials will be discarded.

The student statement represents the primary review for selection. The factors under review by the selection committee will be the extent to which the student clearly identifies obstacles and challenges that needed to be addressed to maintain enrollment and performance over the high school career and the clarity with which the student presents the factors that helped the student succeed (personal, school, family or community support). The extent to which the student has successfully prepared himself/herself to pursue post-secondary studies will also be a factor under consideration. The student must limit the statement to two (2) typed pages using a 10- point font or greater. The essay must be written to address Rising STAR criteria and the reuse of college essays will not be acceptable. A transcript is required to validate meeting high school graduation requirements. Grade performance during the high school years will be taken under consideration noting that moderate grades that show progress over time or that relate to challenges will be accounted for in the decision.

Nominating a student as a *Rising Star* for your high school will provide RISSA with information regarding the many challenges facing our students; the support system helping our students; and the resilience of our students to meet high expectations. The award and scholarship are as much an acknowledgement of student achievement as they are an acknowledgement of the educational system supporting student achievement.

RISSA commends the public high schools of Rhode Island and their staff for the efforts made to address students needs in the reach for high expectations. The *Rising Star* scholarships are funded by donations of RISSA members with matching corporate contributions.

Sincerely,

**Kristen Stringfellow**

President

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